

# Midget Race Driver Still Unconscious Five Days After Crash

## Single Crash Mars City's Quiet Fourth

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### Quietest In Years Says Chief

One injury accident, ten minutes before midnight, July 4, was the only blemish on an otherwise "safe and sane" and very quiet Independence Day celebration in Torrance.

Police Chief John Stroh reported that the four day holiday was "the quietest in my 26 years on the force."

Not a single fire resulting from fireworks or firecrackers was reported to the Torrance Fire Department, according to Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

The city's traffic slate was far cleaner than the state's record of 27 auto accident deaths.

The only traffic injury resulted from a crash at 11:50 p.m. July 4 at Western avenue and Sepulveda boulevard.

According to the police records, Ia Rose Smith, 28, a resident of Hollywood, was injured in the crash involving a car driven by William Sanford Stroub Jr., 28, 23308 Faena avenue.

The injured woman was a passenger in an auto driven by Andy Felix Olano, 27, of Los Angeles.

Other than the accident report, local police received only two calls during the Fourth of July weekend complaining of firecracker shooting.

### REAL ESTATE IS TOP COMMODITY, STATES OFFICIAL

Real estate is California's greatest commodity, D. D. Watson, commissioner of the state real estate commission, told a joint meeting of harbor area realty boards last week in the Torrance American Legion Hall.

Al Atchison, president of the San Pedro realty board acted as master of the ceremonies. Host group was the Torrance-Lomita board.



**DOPE PLANT SEIZED** . . . Ten-day vigil by these Torrance police officers led to capture of four youths cultivating marijuana in a Torrance field. Digging up plant for evidence at trial are (left to right) Patrolmen Don Miller, D. C. Cook and Hyman Fischer. (Herald photo).

### Teenage Marijuana Growers Nabbed After 10-Day Vigil

Ten days stalking by Torrance Police last week was rewarded with the capture of four youths and a harvest of several thousands of dollars in marijuana, according to Torrance police records.

The four youths, all from Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach, were apprehended when two of the boys approached a desolate field near Sepulveda boulevard and Susanna street.

According to Officers D. C. Cook, Don Miller and Hyman Fischer, the pair were nabbed as they came to water one of the plants found growing in the area.

Nabbed on the spot were two youths, 18 and 19 years of age. Taken to Torrance Police headquarters for questioning, the two boys told of a club in which they were members.

The two boys in telling their story to local police, implicated two other youthful Bay area residents.

The latter twosome were picked up by Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriffs after the original pair told police that other plants had been set out in the El Nido district.

The three local officers stalked the field day and night,

many times during off-duty hours, until the youths approached the plants to water them.

The youths said they purchased the seeds for the marijuana in Mexico. At \$1 per cigarette the fully matured trees would have produced at least \$1500 in dope, the officers said. They quoted the youths as saying they did not intend to sell it but were growing it for their own consumption.

The foursome, now out on \$250 bail, are due back in City Judge Otto B. Willett's court on July 7 for a preliminary hearing.

### Crowds Welcome Opening of New Outdoor Pool

Warm summer weather and water in the bottom was all that was needed this week to draw some 5000 fun-seeking kids and adults to Alondra Park's recently opened outdoor pool.

According to Miss Nancy Johnson, pool director, the new cement-bottom lake has been drawing an average of 600 persons daily since it opened unceremoniously last Wednesday.

Without any charge, the pool will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. A staff of four Los Angeles County Life guards will be on duty week days with extra guards assigned for the weekends, Miss Johnson said. The pool will be open on Sundays.

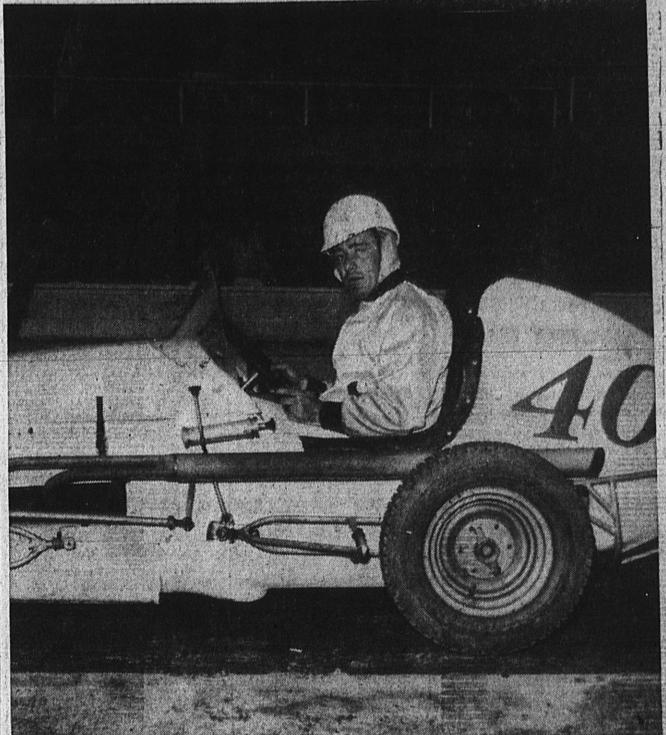
Free Red Cross swimming lessons under the supervision of qualified instructors will be held five days a week. The age groups include boys and girls from 7 to 9 years, 9 to 15 years, and a special adult class for women.

Persons interested in the learn-to-swim program may obtain further information by phoning Menlo 43470. Registrations will be accepted also at the pool on Redondo Beach boulevard—just west of Crenshaw boulevard.

Closed last year by the state because the pool lacked a concrete bottom, it was opened last Wednesday complete with clean sand approaches, foot bath, and showers (a must for all who enter the pool).

Available also are swings and slides for the youngsters. Modern restrooms adjoin the pool. Off-the-street paved parking areas yield easy access to the pool and decrease the traffic hazard, Miss Johnson pointed out.

The community building, recently completed at a cost of more than \$60,000, will be opened as soon as program scheduling for the facility has been approved by the county, Miss Johnson stated.



**CRASHED** . . . Dwight Gunn, local midget racing car pilot, and the sleek, plastic-covered midget which he crashed into the west retaining wall at the Culver City oval last Friday night. The tiny racer was demolished. Gunn is still unconscious at a Santa Monica hospital.

### Main Event Blowout Sends Driver Through Crashwall

At a late hour yesterday Dwight Gunn, midget auto racing driver of 2363 Torrance boulevard, was still unconscious and on the critical list at the Santa Monica Hospital following a crash during a race Friday night.

Gunn was injured at the Culver City Stadium during the main event last Friday when his car spun through the rail on the 16th lap of a 30-lap race.

### Discussion of 'Open Door' Set For TEAC Meet

First meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee to be held on the new meeting date, Monday, will be held next Monday noon at the First Christian Church, according to Mrs. Grace Wright, moderator.

A discussion of proposed changes in the monthly school bulletin, "The Open Door," will highlight the luncheon, Mrs. Wright said.

Any interested person is invited to attend the affair. Luncheon is \$1. Reservations may be made by calling the secretary to the superintendent of schools at Torrance 2111. Reservations must be in by Friday, June 7.

### EMBLEM STOLEN

Gerald Mosher, 1221 El Prado, reported to police Monday that someone had lifted the emblem from his Ford car.

### Lions Club Install Tonight

Superior Court Judge W. B. McKesson, district governor of Lions Clubs for this area, will install Albert Ewalt as president of the local club at rites to be held this evening at the Portuguese Bend Clubhouse.

Ewalt will take the reins from Dr. Don C. Mosher, immediate past president. To be installed with Ewalt are Vice President Paul Diamond, Second Vice President L. Milton Isbell, Secretary Fred Boren, Treasurer Ken Olsen, Tail Twister Lowell Spring, Lion Tamer Warren Hamilton, and Directors Roy Peterson and C. B. Walls.

### SNOOZE COSTS \$91

Sleeping in his car on Torrance beach cost him \$91, Percy G. Heustis, of Palm Springs, told police Tuesday morning. Someone lifted that amount from his wallet while Heustis and his wife were sleeping in the car, he said.



**See Story Page 11**

**MARRIED** . . . Wedding bells out-chimed school bells last Thursday night during the wedding of School Superintendent Dr. J. Henrich Hull and the former Doris Shaklee, a school district secretary. The couple appeared less surprised by the photographer's flash bulb than did Mayor Bob L. Haggard. (Courtesy of A-L photo).

### Trustees Elect Judge President Of New Board

Newly-elected School Board Board President Judge John A. Shidler will preside over the first meeting of the new board tonight at 8 p.m. in the Torrance Unified School District Headquarters, 2335 Plaza del Amo.

Election of Shidler to head the new board took place last Saturday afternoon following the swearing-in of ex-Mayor William H. Tolson and former Councilman Albert L. Jackson.

Carl Steele, a hold-over member of the board, was unanimously elected vice president of the board.

Mrs. Grace Wright is the fifth member of the board.

That their first meeting may be a baptism of fire has been indicated by backers of the "retain Harriet Hardy" movement. Claimed to be ready for presentation to the

(Continued on Page 2)



**Additional Photos Page 4**

"WHEE" . . . Shouts this group of dripping youngsters as they splash from the depths (four feet) of the huge new concrete-bottom outdoor pool at Alondra Park. The

new pool hosted more than 5000 heat-the-heat water-frolicers the first week it was open. (Herald photo).